



**MAYOR DICK MURPHY
Science and Technology Commission
MEETING MINUTES**

The San Diego Science and Technology Commission (SDS&TC) held a meeting on October 20, 2004 hosted by Community and Economic Development located at 600B Street, San Diego, CA 92101.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Dr. Martha Dennis, SDS&TC Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Members present: Dr. Hui Cai, Dr. Martha Dennis, Dr. Tom Dillon, Charles Holland, Kristopher Lichter, Marc Nemer, Tyler Orion, and Craig Roberts. Members absent: Craig Andrews, Daniel Chang, Jon Cohen, Scott Corlett, Susan Myrland, Dr. Gail Naughton, Scott Randall, Carrie Stone, Maurice Wilson, and Julie Meier Wright. Community & Economic Development Department staff members: Toni Dillon, Tina Hines, and Ana Maria Jaramillo. Others Present: Lauree Sahba with Economic Development Corporation.
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment and the Commission moved on to Agenda item III.
- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR:** September 14, 2004
(MOTION/Dillon/Dennis/UNANIMOUS)
- IV. **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STAFF UPDATE**
 - A. Business Expansion Attraction and Retention (BEAR): Ana Maria Jaramillo stated that the letter of acknowledgment to Chief Bowman for the efforts of the Fire Prevention Bureau is ready for signature.

Next Jaramillo stated that Northrop Grumman and the Burnham Institute plan to expand their facilities by 700,000 and 100,000 square feet, respectively. Northrop Grumman's expansion is intended to result in the hiring of 2,100 employees.
- V. **SAN DIEGO ECONOMIC OUTLOOK**
 - A. "San Diego Economic Outlook 2005": Presenter, Kelly Cunningham, Chief Economist, City of San Diego. Cunningham suggested that if San Diego were a country it would be ranked 30th by the measurement Gross Domestic Products in U.S. dollars. San Diego, unlike other cities in the nation, has a current unemployment rate of 3.8 percent. From an economic stand point four percent is considered full employment. Cunningham stated that in 2004, 18,000 new jobs were created in San Diego and projected an increase of 25,000 additional jobs in 2005.

Cunningham continued that the Milken Institute named San Diego as the nation's top biotech center. In addition, San Diego has the largest concentration of high technology workers among private sector jobs, 159 of every 1,000 private sector jobs are in the high technology industry. The high technology industry is composed of seven sectors that have the following percentages of jobs: 1) Biotechnology 20.3%; 2) Aerospace/Defense 20.2%; 3) Telecommunications 15.7%; 4) Electronics 13.1%; 5) Other 12.4%; 6) Software 11.3 %; 7) Computers 7%.

Cunningham cited that in addition to a thriving high tech industry, San Diego is a leading area for venture capital investment. San Diego also has a golf industry that leads the nation in recreational equipment production. However, San Diego has one of the highest inflation rates or cost of living rates in the country. Cunningham suggested that the primary reasons for San Diego's high inflation are housing, utilities and gas prices. He concluded that San Diego's cost of living could deter younger college graduates from permanently residing in the city. As a result of this exodus, San Diego may lose talented professionals with valuable skills. In addition, the ability of San Diego companies to recruit talent from across the nation is effected.

VI. SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE

- A. The Waitt Family Foundation Event: Ms. Tyler Orion stated that the Waitt Family Foundation will hold a press conference on October 21, 2004 at 9:45 A.M. to announce the release of their new study entitled "San Diego's Digital Divide Revisited". Ms. Orion cited that the purpose of this new study was to take an updated snap shot of computer literacy in San Diego. Ms. Orion's organization, the Regional Technology Alliance, surveyed a population similar to the one examined in her report prepared in 2001.

Ms. Orion summarized the following inferences from the "San Diego's Digital Divide Revisited" study. Over all the region has progressed towards digital inclusion; however factors that shape the digital divide are a resident's: 1) income level, people with a lower income are less likely to be computer literate; 2) ethnicity, members of the Latino community are estimated to be 28% of the region's population, but encompass 40% of those who lack digital parity; 3) geographic location, survey results indicate that south county is impacted by the digital divide.

In conclusion, Ms. Orion reemphasized the importance of funding for community technology programs, coordination of outreach efforts, and support of computer ownership and broadband internet to bridge disparity in impacted communities in San Diego.

- B. Science and Technology for Economic Prosperity Update: Dr. Dennis state that she had listened to the tapes of the S.T.E.P Forum. In reviewing these tapes and comparing them to the Summary Report written by Collaborative Economics (CE), she opined that CE's Report did not capture the participants' creative ideas and solutions and was repetitious. Furthermore, she requested that the Commission consider creating a new report.

Dr. Dennis volunteered to design the first section of the new report to establish the theme, requested her summary from the tapes be used in this report and asked for volunteers to participate in the rewrite. Lauree Sahba with the Economic Development Corporation, offered to assist with the new report once Dr. Dennis has created a theme,

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. December 1st Meeting: It has been confirmed that Andrew Poat, Director, Governmental Relations will present at the next S&T Commission meeting.

VIII. UPCOMING MEETINGS: The next meeting will be December 1, 2004 from 3 P.M to 5 P.M.

- IX. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business of the Commission; this meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.